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was not a single misprint. In the last volume published before his death, in a foot-note "1639" appears for "1369".

EDWARD P. CHEYNEY.

Étude sur le Gouvernement de François I^{er} dans ses Rapports avec le Parlement de Paris. Par ROGER DOUCET, Agrégé d'Histoire, Maître de Conférences à la Faculté des Lettres d'Alger. Volume I., 1515-1525. (Paris: Édouard Champion. 1921. Pp. 379. 20 fr.)

THIS is a very interesting book. Its purpose is to show how "the traditional and still feudal monarchy of Louis XII." began to be converted, under Francis I., into the centralized absolutism which reached its culmination under Louis XIV. The method adopted is to describe a series of conflicts between the king and the Parlement de Paris, which was dominated, more than any other part of the body politic, by the methods and ideals of the preceding age, and therefore naturally became the centre of the forces opposed to the crown.

After an illuminating chapter on the political theories of the first part of the sixteenth century, the author takes up the problem of the relations of Church and State, which was brought to the fore by the Concordat of 1516. The king, who aspired completely to subject the French church to his own authority, cared solely for the maintenance of those of its "liberties" which rendered it independent of the pope: the Parlement, on the other hand, harked back to the system established by the Pragmatic Sanction of Bourges. "Gallicanisme royal" and "gallicanisme parlementaire" found themselves, for the first time, in direct opposition; but it was "gallicanisme royal" that won the day. Next comes the question of finance. New methods of obtaining revenue and credit were being invented, which rendered the king independent not only of grants from the national and local estates, but also of the tutelage of the *gens de finance*, to whom his predecessors had been constantly obliged to have recourse. The Parlement did not like the way things were going, and sought to put on the brake by an occasional refusal to register an edict or to sanction the creation of a new official; its opposition, however, was not sufficiently systematic or continuous to be effective. The king's power, on the other hand, was immensely strengthened, not only financially, but territorially and politically as well, by the results of the treason of the Duc de Bourbon, and the confiscation of his vast domains. A final chapter takes up the differences between the king on the one hand, and the Parlement and the University of Paris on the other, over the treatment to be accorded to the disciples of Lefèvre d'Étaples. Francis had little or no love for the Reformers, but he was far too much engrossed in other affairs to give enthusiastic support to a policy of persecution. The Parlement and the university, however, were consistent in their demands for the

suppression of heresy; and in this matter at least, as the latter part of the reign was to prove, they were unfortunately able to make good their contentions.

Everywhere else, however, the monarchy triumphed; and perhaps the most interesting thing about the whole story is that the crown should have gained the victory with such an unworthy representative. It has become a favorite pastime for historians of the sixteenth century "to hurl", as Bishop Stubbs once expressed it, "another stone at Francis I.", but lapidation has not hitherto been frequent until after the disaster of Pavia in 1525; during the first ten years of his reign it has been usual to represent the king in a more favorable light. M. Doucet, however, clearly shows that the same bad qualities which all men recognized at the close of Francis's life were present from the first—tyrannical instincts, weakness of will, and sudden outbursts of furious rage. Moreover, the king's attention was chiefly centred on foreign affairs, and such continuity and system as were visible in the internal management of the realm were for the most part due to his ministers; it was almost a case of "absolutisme sans le roi". On the other hand, the Parlement and the other bodies opposed to the crown were not favorably situated for effective resistance. Their claims to authority were based less on positive laws than on traditions which the increasingly monarchical atmosphere of the day was rapidly stifling. They dealt, or attempted to deal, with each case as it came up, in a different way, and not according to any fundamental principle; and they labored under the disadvantage that they often seemed to be acting less in the interests of the country as a whole than in those of the *gens de robe*. Under all the circumstances, they were almost foredoomed to defeat.

All students of the sixteenth century will be grateful to M. Doucet for this painstaking analysis, and will look forward with lively anticipation to the publication of his two remaining volumes.

ROGER B. MERRIMAN.

Opus Epistolarum Des. Erasmi Roterodami, denuo recognitum et auctum per P. S. ALLEN, M.A., Collegii Mertonensis Socium, et H. M. ALLEN. Tomus IV., 1519-1521. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1922. Pp. xxxii, 639. 28 s.)

AFTER an interval of nine years, sufficiently explained by the crowding of other, larger interests and by the technical difficulties of publication caused by the war, Mr. Allen returns to his task with undiminished ability and zeal. The same qualities of painstaking accuracy and judicious criticism which marked the earlier volumes are present here. If one could ever speak of a "final" edition, it would be in place to say here: "This work will never have to be done again." Problems there will always be, and it is one of Mr. Allen's chief merits as an editor that he seldom indulges in finalities of any sort. One does not find in his work the *ohne Zweifel* and the *nachgewiesen* of German criticism.